

Serial. No. 10/807,905

Amendment dated December 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] In another aspect of the invention there is a center beam rail road car having a longitudinal centerline. The center beam rail road car is supported by rail car trucks at either end ~~thereof~~ The ~~thereof~~. The trucks each have a truck center. The center beam rail road car comprises a center sill extending between the trucks. A decking structure extends laterally of the center sill upon which loads can be placed. The decking structure has first and second ends. First and second bulkheads mount to the decking structure transversely to the centerline at the first and second ends. An open web work structure extends upwardly from the center sill and runs between the bulkheads. An upper beam runs between the bulkheads. The upper beam is mounted upon the open web work structure upwardly of, and parallel to, the center sill. The open web work structure has a pair of longitudinally extending, laterally spaced apart skirt members mounted thereto adjacent the upper beam. The skirt members each have an outwardly facing surface against which cargo placed laterally outboard thereof can bear. The skirts are reinforced laterally inboard thereof to discourage lateral deflection of the faces when cargo placed laterally outward thereof bears against the skirts.